

2. (Amen) [Process as claimed in] The process of Claim 1, wherein the rolled linoleum sheet [equipped with] having dispersed and pressed-in mixed mass particles is cut, rotated 90°, stacked into a scale-like sheet stack and subsequently rolled into a pattern providing sheet.

3. (Amended) [Process as claimed in] The process of Claim 1, wherein the rolled linoleum sheet [equipped with] having dispersed and pressed-in mixed mass particles is processed directly as a pattern-providing sheet into a flexible linoleum material.

[3] 4. (Amended) [Process as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims] The process of Claim 1, wherein the particles are pressed into the linoleum sheet by means of a mangle or some other pressing tool.

[4] 5. (Amended) [Process as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims] The process of Claim 1, wherein [a] the rolled linoleum sheet is uncolored, marbled or speckled [rolled linoleum sheet is used].

[5] 6. (Amended) [Process as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims] The process of Claim 1, wherein [a composition of] the mixed mass particles [is used which contains] comprises a smaller proportion of linoleum cement than the rolled linoleum sheet.

[6] 7. (Amended) [Process as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims] The process of Claim 1, wherein the mixed mass particles are dispersed onto both sides of the rolled linoleum sheet.

[7] 8. (Amen) [Flexible] A flexible linoleum sheet material comprising a top layer [as] matrix, [which has] having at least one first color and at least one type of contrastingly colored particles[, which are] embedded in the matrix.

[8] 9. (Amended) [Flexible] The flexible linoleum sheet material [as claimed in] of Claim [7] 8, wherein the top layer is uncolored, marbled or speckled.

[9] 10. (Amended) [Flexible] The flexible linoleum sheet material [as claimed in] Claim 7 or 8] of Claim 8 having particle types that are identical or different in size and/or color.

[10] 11. (Amended) [Flexible] The flexible linoleum sheet material [as claimed in] any one of Claims 7 to 9] of Claim 8, wherein the particles are embedded only in the topside of the top layer.

[11] 12. (Amended) [Flexible] The flexible linoleum sheet material [as claimed in] any one of Claims 7 to 9] of Claim 8, wherein the particles permeate the entire top layer.

[12] 13. (Amended) [Flexible] The flexible linoleum sheet material [as claimed in] any one of Claims 7 to 9] of Claim 8, wherein the particles are distributed across the entire thickness of the top layer.

[13] 14. (Amended) [Flexible] The flexible linoleum sheet material [as claimed in] any one of Claims 7 to 12] of Claim 8, wherein the particles are present in an amount of 10 g/m<sup>2</sup> to 500 g/m<sup>2</sup> in relation to the weight of the top layer.

Please add the following new claims:

16. The process of claim 1, wherein the mixed mass particles are selected from the group of particles consisting of uncolored, multicolored and combinations thereof.

17. The process of claim 1, wherein the rolled linoleum sheet is uncolored or multicolored.

18. The flexible linoleum sheet material of Claim 8, wherein the sheet material is a floor covering.

Respectfully submitted

  
Steven L. Schmid  
Registration No. 39,358  
James F. Vaughan  
Registration No. 31,889

WOMBLE CARLYLE SANDRIDGE & RICE

P. O. Box 725388  
Atlanta, Georgia 31139-9388  
(404) 962-7539 (Telephone)  
(404) 870-8234 (facsimile)

EXPRESS MAIL

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as "Express Mail Post Office To Addressee," in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box PCT, Washington, D.C. 20231 on

November 28, 2000  
Express Mail No. EL551684016

Signature